CIRCULAR NO. 19.

Office Medical Director of Hospitals,
ATLANTA, JUNE 18TH, 1864.

I. The attention of Surgeons in charge of hospitals is called to the following Special Orders from Army Head-Quarters:

"EXTRACT." HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF TENN.,
"IN THE FIELD," JUNE 17TH, 1864.

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS,
NO. 21.

I. Authority is given Surgeon S. H. Stout, Medical Director of Hospitals, to grant leaves of absence and furloughs for not exceeding thirty (30) days, to officers and men from this Army, in hospitals under his charge. Surgeon Stout, in granting furloughs, will be guided by the instructions received from Surgeon A. J. Foard, Medical Director of the Army.

II. Officers and men, receiving leaves and furloughs, will report at the expiration thereof, to the Hospitals from which they are granted. In all cases, notices of leaves and furloughs will be sent through these Head-Quarters to commanding officers.

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By Command of GEN'L JOHNSTON,
(Signed) KINLOCH FALCONER, A. A. Gen'l.

II. The General Commanding has issued the above Special Orders with the expectation that Medical Examining Boards, acting under authority thereof, will exercise a wise discretion in recommending leaves of absence and furloughs.

That the order may be carried out in its spirit and intent, the following directions are given:

III. The Boards, in recommending leaves of absence or furloughs, must, in each case, certify that, in their opinion, the patient will be sooner restored to health, by his temporary removal from hospital.

IV. A record of the name, rank, company, regiment, brigade and division of each patient granted leave of absence or furloughed under this order, and his Post Office, while absent on leave or furlough, shall be carefully kept in each hospital, a transcript of which shall, on Saturday of each week, be forwarded, properly endorsed, and classed by regiments, battalions and batteries, (the commands of each brigade being registered, as near as may be, together,) through this office to the A. & I. General of the Army of Tennessee.

V. Instead of reporting to their commands as formerly, officers on leave or soldiers on furlough, under provisions of this order, shall be required to return to the hospital from which the leave of absence or furlough is granted, on or before the expiration thereof, when, if fit for duty, they will be returned to their commands, as in other cases.

VI. Officers and soldiers returning home on leave or furlough, under this order, or on reaching places at which they will stay during leave or furlough, will report to the nearest enrolling officer, and will notify him of their departure for hospital at the expiration thereof.

VII. Notices of leaves and furloughs, granted under this order, and also of every failure to report again to hospital, as provided in this order, must be transmitted to the commanders of companies, through Army Head-Quarters, as in other cases.

VIII. The Enrolling officer of every District to which officers or soldiers are granted the privilege of going, under this order, will, each week, be furnished by the Surgeon in charge of each hospital, with a list of the names of all officers granted leaves, and men furloughed, with the date of the commencement and expiration of the leaves and furloughs.

IX. The names of all granted leave of absence or furloughed under this order, will be retained on the hospital register, and reported as being absent under orders from Army Head-Quarters. Notices of such leaves or furloughs will not be sent to the War Department, as this order is from Department Head-Quarters.

X. The leaves of absence and furloughs will be issued from the office of the Medical Director of Hospitals, signed by himself, or in his absence, by Surgeon S. M. Bemiss as acting Medical Director.

XI. The orders from the A. & I. General's office, Richmond, authorizing the granting of furloughs for sixty days, on certain conditions, by Medical Examining Boards, are not intended to be interfered with by the above, but remain in full force as heretofore. Those granted leaves or furloughed under existing orders from A. & I. G. O. will be entered under the head of "Furloughed," on Morning Reports as usual, while an additional column should be ruled off from the column of "Remarks" in Morning Reports, and headed "Absent under orders," in which column the number absent on leave or furlough, under S. O. No. 21, Head-Quarters Army of Tennessee, shall be constantly shown.

XII. Paragraph VI, General Orders No. 141, A. & I. G. O., 1863, will be carefully observed in granting certificates.

XIII. This order is only applicable to officers and soldiers of General Johnston's command.

S. H. STOUT,
Medical Director.

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